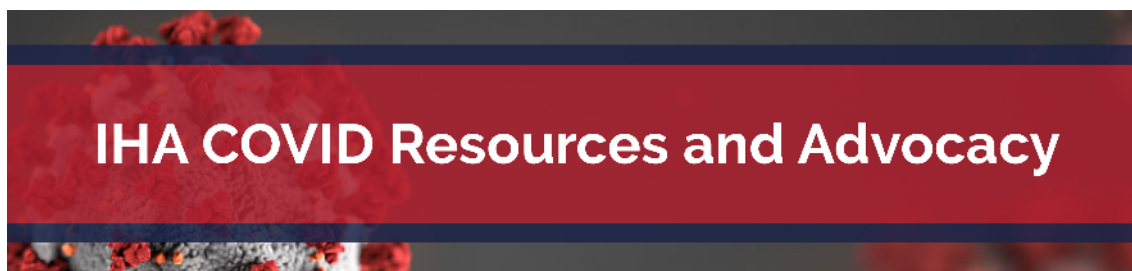


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Wednesday, July 28, 2021

CDC issues health advisory, adjusts guidance for fully vaccinated

The CDC has issued a health advisory to public health practitioners and clinicians about the urgent need to increase COVID-19 vaccination coverage to prevent surges in new infections that could increase COVID-19-related morbidity and mortality, overwhelm health care capacity and widen existing COVID-19-related health disparities. Increasing vaccination coverage is especially urgent in areas where coverage is low. Unvaccinated people account for most new COVID-19 infections, hospitalizations and deaths. Circulating SARS-CoV-2 variants, especially the highly infectious delta variant, are accelerating the spread of infection. Unvaccinated and partially vaccinated people need to practice recommended prevention measures until fully vaccinated.

The CDC also adjusted its guidance for fully vaccinated people, urging indoor masking in states labeled as “high” or “substantial” in their number of cases, including schools, where all in attendance should wear masks. Data indicates that, in rare occasions, vaccinated people infected with the delta variant after vaccination may be contagious.

Vaccine mandates fill this week’s headlines

Earlier this week, a group of nearly 60 health organizations issued a [statement](#) calling for vaccine mandates for health care and long-term care workers. The statement, from the American Medical Association, American Nurses Association and dozens of other groups, represents a tough stance on health care vaccinations as mounting COVID-19 hospitalizations and case counts stress hospitals and front-line health workers. Veterans Affairs also made COVID-19 vaccines mandatory for most of its health workers.

The American Hospital Association issued a [statement](#) last week strongly urging vaccination of health care workers and expressing support for mandatory COVID-19 vaccination policies for health care.

Reporting reminder: Peak census designation and immediate bed availability

Hospitalization data reporting and discussions with health care partners in and around Iowa are indicating increased hospitalizations and needs for patient transfer. To facilitate a more-effective patient transfer process, hospitals are reminded to accurately report data in EMResource to help maintain real-time awareness of available beds. Attention to facility status using the peak census and immediate bed availability information in EMResource will help other facilities find potential transfer locations and reduce the number of request calls received during a peak time.

Peak census indicates when a facility is at capacity or working through critical patient congestion or staffing shortages. Keeping this status up to date helps hospitals understand other hospitals' availability to help with patient transfers.

Immediate bed availability reflects the number of beds a facility can staff and are available at any time. Hospitals should limit their bed report in this field to only beds available when the data is entered and not reflect beds that could be available in a surge request with a quick addition of staff or other resources. This will help other hospitals understand whether another facility can take one or more patients as transfers.

Although other metrics and indicators can be used for facility monitoring, it is important to use EMResource data reporting now for transfer and bed-availability awareness.

Contact IDPH with questions or concerns about reporting this data.

WPS warns of phishing attempts

The [Wisconsin Physicians Service Insurance Corporation](#) has issued a warning about email phishing attempts that inform recipients about funds owed or funds due because of the advance/accelerated COVID-19 payments.

Please be diligent and carefully review email that includes secure information and check the email address. If it doesn't include the @wpsic.com domain, it is not from WPS. And email from WPS will never identify bank account information.

Educational opportunities

- [A Path Forward: Thriving in Rural Health Care After COVID-19](#), 11 am-Noon, Thursday, Aug. 19. Tying community engagement to diversity and health equity, this webinar explores true stories of the amazing resiliency of rural communities amid the formidable challenges of a pandemic.
- [COVID-19 Provider Relief Fund: Reporting Requirements and Strategies](#), Noon-1 pm, Tuesday, Aug. 24. This presentation will provide a brief recap of the provider relief fund and a detailed review of the new reporting guidance. It also will discuss common reporting questions and strategies in preparation for the reporting deadline.



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